

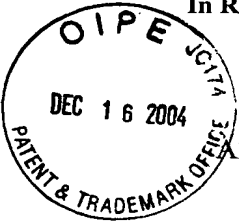
Amendment dated: December 16, 2004

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CUSTOMER NO. 00909

Application Serial No.: 09/461,336

Attorney Docket No.: 038100-0313722

In Response to Office Action mailed November 17, 2004



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF: Dazhi Chen *et al.*
SERIAL NO.: 09/461,336
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 038100-0313722 (23632-002)
FILING DATE: December 15, 1999
CONFIRMATION NO: 3675
ART UNIT: 3627
EXAMINER: STEVEN B. MCALLISTER
FOR: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REDUCING EXCESS CAPACITY FOR RESTAURANTS AND OTHER INDUSTRIES DURING OFF-PEAK OR OTHER TIMES

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED NOVEMBER 17, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 17, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 28 of this paper.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 033975 (Ref. No. 038100-0313722).